

Front Cover

What kind of book do you think this is? (Fiction/non-fiction.) How do you know?

- Example answer: I think this is a fiction book because the front cover has drawings, not photographs. I also think that if this book had facts in it, it would be called 'Magpies'. The title makes me think that is a story about one magpie.

Look at the title and the front cover. Can you predict what this book is going to be about?

- Example answer: I think this is a story about a magpie who is messy and I think he is messy because he collects lots of junk. I predict that other animals will get cross with him being so messy.

Blurb

Who is the main character in the book?

- The main character in the book is a magpie called Morris.

'But are they the generous gifts that Morris first thought?' What do you think the answer to the question is? Can you predict what the problem might be in this story?

- Example answer: I think the answer is 'no' and that they are not gifts. They are just pieces of rubbish. I think the problem is going to be that Morris thinks items of rubbish are gifts so he will collect a lot and make a mess.

Text

p.1 What are magpies known for doing?

- Magpies are known for collecting shiny/colourful things.

p.2 Why does Morris take objects home to his nest?

- He takes objects home to his nest to make the nest look special.

p.3 Can you predict what Morris will do with the can that is thrown from the car?

- Example answer: I predict that he will take it home to his nest to make his nest look special because it says in the text that Morris does this with gleaming objects.

p.4 What does the word 'manoeuvre' mean?

- It means to move something.

p.4 Do you think this will be the only object that Morris will collect? Explain why you think this.

- Example answer: I think he will collect more and more things because the picture on the front cover shows him having lots of things in his nest and it seems like he can't resist collecting every shiny object he sees.

p.5 What do you think Morris will do after the humans have left? Explain why you think this.

- Example answer: I predict that he will take some shiny objects that have been left behind because magpies like shiny objects. I think that he will take it home to decorate his nest.

p.6 What are the 'shimmering treasures' that are mentioned?

- The 'shimmering treasures' are the items of litter left behind by humans.

p.7 Why does Morris not put all of the objects he collects into his nest?

- There is no more space in the tree so Morris has to spread his collection out over the floor.

p.9-10 Think about the story so far and what you have read in the blurb. Predict what will happen to the woods where Morris lives.

- Example answer: I think that the woods will be totally spoilt by Morris collecting so many things.

Deeper Reading

From reading the blurb and what you have read so far, what do you think the message of this story will be?

- Example answer: I think the message will be that you should not make a mess of your environment. In the story so far, Morris has spoilt where he lives by collecting lots of litter and I think he is going to learn that there are consequences to doing this.

